

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 EURE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /048 W

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P 291528Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7368

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7003

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL FROM AMBASSADOR

EE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING

REF: A. STATE 231287; B. MADRID 5753

1. REVIEWING ASSESSMENT IN REFTEL B IN LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, NOTABLY THOSE RELATING TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, I FIND THAT IT REMAINS VALID. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING REVISION WILL SERVE TO PUT ASSESSMENT IN MORE CURRENT PERSPECTIVE.

2. DELETE THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 2 AND SUBSTITUTE QUOTE THIS ATTITUDE WAS REFLECTED IN THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE SPANISH DURING THE RECENT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. CONSTRAINED TO ACT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THEIR POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE ARABS, THE SPANISH MADE CLEAR, BOTH PUBLICLY AND IN OFFICIAL DEMARCHES TO THE U.S., THEIR POSITION THAT USE OF THE BASES IN SPAIN FOR OPERATIONS IN THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY AVOIDED A HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION WITH THE U.S. ON THIS ISSUE AND SHOWED UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. OBJECTIVE OF PREVENTING THE SOVIETS FROM IMPOSING THEIR WILL IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SPANISH DESIRE TO ASSURE CONFORMITY OF THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE WITH WHAT THEY CONCEIVE TO BE THEIR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS WILL LIKELYPOSE DIFFICULTIES NOT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL QUESTION OF USE OF THE BASES BUT ALSO ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS SUCH AS NUCLEAR STORAGE AND LIABILITY.

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END QUOTE

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